

S - 25,251

OCT 6 1969

Orig under
Soe

The News

Formerly Carter Glass & Sons, Publishers

PHILIP LIGHTFOOT Formerly Carter Glass & Sons, Publishers
THOMAS R. GLASS, SCRUGGS, Editor
Executive Editor

F. JAMES MURDOCK, Associate Editor
DEL P. SMITH, Managing Editor

Monday, October 6, 1969

Dirty Business

inform the Army that it would refuse to testify before the charges were made and the United States was given a propaganda black eye?

Or did the CIA tell the Army at the beginning, and the Army went ahead and charged the men anyway, knowing it would never be able to bring them to trial?

The implications of these questions are frightening to anyone concerned with integrity of our military commanders and their civilian bosses.

Who was responsible for permitting those men to be charged, and the United States blackened by the disclosure? Was it the CIA? Or the Army? Or the Nixon Administration in charge of the Pentagon? Are we asked to believe that President Nixon was not informed that the charges were going to be made, or that they were going to be dropped? He would have to be told because of the politically explosive nature of the case and its repercussions throughout the world. Of course, he may not have been, in which case heads will roll. . .

Eventually the truth will come out and the American public will be told who was responsible for publicizing this affair without first ascertaining that the charges could be substantiated in court. That person, or persons — for it may have

So far as the American public knows, there is no evidence that the civilian "double agent" the Green Berets are accused of murdering, is, in fact, dead, or that any crime has been committed. Surely, producing proof of the agent's death could not compromise the national security of this country. Such proof, of course, would not prove that the Green Berets killed the man. But it would show that a crime has been committed.

As it is, the stigma of the messy affair will follow these officers the rest of their lives. They have been accused of murder in particularly foul circumstances, and they have not been exonerated. They have merely been set free, with a great show of reluctance.

Defusing Squad

